

Appl. No. 09/998,256  
Amdt. dated February 24, 2006  
Reply to Office action of November 28, 2005

### **REMARKS**

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-15 and 17-29 and 31 remain in this case. Claims 1-15 and 24-31 have been allowed. Claim 30 is canceled. New claim 32 has been added.

Claims 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The claims have been amended to correct the cited problems.

Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sehr (US 6,085,976) in view of Cousins *et al.* (US 6,417,797). Claim 18 was rejected as above in further view of Jachimowicz (EP 0 564 940 A1). Claim 21 has been rejected as above in further view of Brown *et al.* (US 6,366,622). Claims 22-23 were rejected as claims 17 and 19, in further view of Brown. For the following reasons, the rejections are traversed.

Claims 17-23 have been made dependent on allowed claim 29. Thus, claims 17-23 are patentable over the references for the same reasons as claim 29.

New claim 32 has all of the elements of allowed claim 24 put into "means for" language, and thus is allowable over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 24, and thus does not raise any new issues. Accordingly, claim 32 should be entered by the Examiner.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a

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telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34182.

Respectfully submitted,  
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